

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LISBON

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 14487

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, NATO, UR, XT

SUBJ: EUROPEAN COMMUNIST CONFERENCE: PONOMAREV LEAVES FOR
EAST BERLIN

REF: A. ROME 14544 (NOTAL); B. MOSCOW 13809; C. USNATO 5492;
D. MOSCOW 13681; E. STATE 236659

1. RADIO MOSCOW ANNOUNCED OCTOBER 8 AND OCTOBER 9 CENTRAL
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PRESS CONFIRMED DEPARTURE TO BERLIN "FOR SESSION OF

WORKING GROUP TO PREPARE CONFERENCE OF COMMUNIST AND WORKERS' PARTIES OF EUROPE" OF PONOMAREV AND TWO CC SECRETARIAT DEPUTY DEPARTMENT HEADS.

2. IT IS OF COURSE POSSIBLE THAT SOVIETS ARE WHEELING OUT THEIR BIG GUN--PONOMAREV IS THE CC SECRETARY RESPONSIBLE FOR RELATIONS WITH NON-RULING PARTIES--FOR A CONFRONTATION WHOSE ISSUE IS IN DUBT, BUT THIS SEEMS UNLIKELY TO US. ON THE CONTRARY, THE INFORMATION REPORTED IN REFTEL A, THAT THE "RESISTING" PARTIES IN THE CONFERENCE PREPARATIONS HAVE ACCEPTED A NEW EAST GERMAN DRAFT DOCUMENT AS A BASIS FOR DISCUSSION, SEEMS TO US PLAUSIBLE, AND IT INDICATES THAT ENOUGH PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE TO ALLOW THE SOVIETS TO SEND PONOMAREV TO BERLIN WITH REAL HOPE FOR MORE PROGRESS TOWARD A CONFERENCE. IT ALSO TENDS TO CONFIRM OUR SUPPOSITION THAT THE FRENCH AND ITALIANS NOW HOLD THE KEYS TO ULTIMATE SUCCESS (REFTEL B).

3. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE NOTE UK REP'S STATEMENT IN NATO DISCUSSION THAT HIS AUTHORITIES AGREE WITH VIEW PRESENTED BY U.S. REP THAT SOVIETS ARE ADOPTING A MORE MILITANT POSTURE TOWARD THE WEST EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES (REFTEL C). THIS AGREEMENT IS ALSO REFLECTED BY UK (AND FRG) EMBASSY REPS HERE IN MOSCOW. AS NOTED REFTEL D REPEATED TO USNATO PER REFTEL E, HOWEVER, OUR ALTERNATIVE VIEW IS THAT THE SOVIETS ARE PROBABLY IN THE PROCESS OF WRITING THEIR POSITIONS ON ISSUES WHICH ARE CONTROVERSIAL INTO THE RECORD UNILATERALLY IN ORDER TO PERMIT THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE EUROPEAN COMMUNIST CONFERENCE TO GO FORWARD WITH SOME PROSPECT OF SUCCESS. RECENT REFERENCES TO A WORLD CONFERENCE OF PARTIES BY THE POLES (REFTEL C) AND THE EAST GERMANS DURING THE HONECKER VISIT HERE MAY BE DESIGNED TO WEAVE A SAFETY NET IN CASE THE EUROPEAN CONFERENCE IS IN FACT DELAYED OR POSTPONED, BUT FROM HERE THE PROSPECT FOR AN EARLY IF ANODYNE EUROPEAN CONFERENCE, AS A PRECURSOR TO THE 25TH CPSU CONGRESS AND IN THE AFTERMATH OF HELSINKI, SEEMS QUITE BRIGHT.
STOESSEL

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